

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH AND THE
CENTRAL FAMILY PLANNING COUNCIL

SUMMARY BEGINS: THE THREE-DAY JOINT MEETING OF THE INDIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH AND THE CENTRAL FAMILY PLANNING COUNCIL OPENED IN NEW DELHI ON APRIL 15. THE HIGH POINTS OF THE OPENING DAY WERE THE NATIONWIDE AWARDS AND THE ADDRESS BY THE UNION MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, DR. KARAN SINGH. THE MINISTER CONCENTRATED ON ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING POINTING OUT THAT 2.6 MILLION STERILIZATIONS WERE ACCOMPLISHED IN 1975-76, ALMOST 100 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE "WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM GENERATED BY THE BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE STEPS" TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO ACHIEVE LASTING RESULTS IN THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. THE MINISTER SAID THERE WOULD BE A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND ALL OF THE CHIEF MINISTERS ON APRIL 15, CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL POLICY FOR FAMILY PLANNING AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE PROBABLY BY THE END OF THE WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. KARAN SINGH, UNION MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING INAUGURATED THE THREE DAY JOINT MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH (CCH) AND THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF FAMILY PLANNING
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(CCFP) ON APRIL 15. THE MEETING OPENED WITH THE NATIONAL AWARDS

FOR FAMILY PLANNING FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCES BY STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES IN FY 1974-75. THE STATE OF HARYANA WAS AWARDED THE FIRST PRIZE FOR THE NUMBER OF STERILIZATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR WITH 8.2 STERILIZATIONS FOR EVERY ONE THOUSAND POPULATION. GUJARAT WAS AWARDED SECOND PRIZE WITH 5.9 FOLLOWED BY TAMIL NADU WITH 5.0. THE BEST PERFORMANCE FOR THE UNION TERRITORIES WAS RECORDED BY CHANDIGARH WITH 9.9 EQUIVALENT STERILIZATIONS PER THOUSAND OF POPULATION. THE MADRAS CITY DISTRICT ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF STERILIZATIONS FOR A DISTRICT, RECORDING 12.5 OTHER NATIONAL AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO BEST PERFORMANCE BY A PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER AND BY A PANCHAYAT (VILLAGE COUNCIL). THE TOP PANCHAYAT WAS IN THE DISTRICT OF BARODA, GUJARAT AND RECORDED AN AMAZING 68.5 STERILIZATIONS PER THOUSAND POPULATION. THE LEADING PANCHAYAT WAS GIVEN RS.5,000 FOR THIS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.

2. THESE VERY HANDSOME NATIONAL AWARDS FOR FAMILY PLANNING FOR THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES ARE TAKING ON A MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE WITH THE NATION-WIDE CALL TO ARMS OF EVERY CITIZEN TO PARTICIPATE IN FAMILY PLANNING MOTIVATION. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL IN THE FUTURE, SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE CASH AWARDS TO THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS AND THE PANCHAYATS IN AN EFFORT TO STIMULATE MOTIVATION IN THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL.

3. IN HIS INAUGURATION SPEECH DR. KARAN SINGH EMPHASIZED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING DURING THE PAST YEAR AND THE COUNTRY IS NOW POISED FOR A NEW THRUST FORWARD. HE SAID THE WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM GENERATED BY THE "BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE STEPS" TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE USED TO ACHIEVE LASTING RESULTS IN THESE TWO IMPORTANT FIELDS. THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT DURING THE PAST YEAR THERE HAS BEEN FULLER REALIZATION OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF FAMILY PLANNING IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REMOVAL OF POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY. HE STATED THAT 1975-76 SAW AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF 2.6 MILLION STERILIZATIONS, ALMOST 100 PERCENT MORE THAN DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE INTEGRATION OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND NUTRITION PROPOSED FOR THE FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP TAKEN TO ACHIEVE THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING TO

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ALL OF THE NATION. IN ADDITION, DURING THE PAST YEAR TWO COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN SET UP IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, ONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINGLE-PURPOSE WORKERS TO MULTIPURPOSE WORKERS AND ANOTHER GROUP ON MEDICAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT MANPOWER. THE LATTER COMMITTEE HAS SUGGESTED THE CREATION OF A BAND OF COMMUNITY LEVEL WORKERS TO ASSIST IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES. THESE COMMUNITY WORKERS WOULD INCLUDE SCHOOL TEACHERS,

DAIS, VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OTHERS TO ASSIST THE MULTI-PURPOSE WORKERS AND HEALTH SUPERVISORS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL.

4. IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THE MINISTER SAID THE NATION HAD ACHIEVED ZERO INCIDENCE OF SMALLPOX IN JULY OF LAST YEAR AND SINCE THEN HAS SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAINED THAT STATUS. THIS PROGRAM WILL REMAIN ACTIVE FOR TWO MORE YEARS IN ORDER FOR THE COUNTRY TO BE CERTIFIED FREE OF SMALLPOX BY THE WHO. THE NEXT MAJOR PROGRAM WILL BE THE ERADICATION OF LEPROSY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY THE YEAR 2000. IN INDIA ALONE THERE ARE ABOUT 3.2 MILLION PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM LEPROSY WITH ABOUT 1.5 MILLION CASES DETECTED AND BROUGHT UNDER TREATMENT. THE HEALTH MINISTRY HAS ESTABLISHED A CRASH PROGRAM FOR LEPROSY ORIENTED TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE TREATMENT TO AT LEAST 400,000 CASES DURING FY 1976-77. IN ADDITION, THREE NEW CENTRAL INSTITUTES FOR LEPROSY WILL BE CREATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

5. EFFORTS TO FIGHT OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS MALARIA, TB, VD CHOLERA AND FILARIA WILL BE CONTINUED. THE MINISTER SAID THE NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM HAD FACED NATIONAL SETBACKS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE INTERRUPTION IN SUPPLY OF INSECTICIDES AND THE ENORMOUS INCREASE IN PRICE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, NOW THE SUPPLY POSITION OF INSECTICIDES AND ANTI-MALARIALS HAS IMPROVED AND HE URGED THE STATES TO INSURE PROPER UTILIZATION AND INTENSIFY THEIR SUPERVISION OF SPRAY AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS. THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT MALARIA WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH PROBLEMS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HE HOPED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL CRASH PROGRAM COORDINATED BY WHO COULD GET UNDERWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 HEW-06 IO-13 PC-05 PA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5318

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 5573

PASS: OES/ENP/PO, USAID/POPULATION, DHEW/PHS/OIH, NIH-FIC, NICHD

6. FINALLY, IN HEALTH, A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE GOI TO PREVENT BLINDNESS, BOTH PARTIAL AND TOTAL. THE MINISTER SAID THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THEIR OUTLAY TO THE STATES FOR BLINDNESS PREVENTION AND WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE WHO, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS YEAR WHICH HAS BEEN LABELED BY WHO AS "BLINDNESS PREVENTION YEAR."

7. IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY PLANNING, THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS HAD REACHED A NEW HIGH AND HAD EMERGED AS A "MAJOR SOCIAL COMPULSION OF OUR TIMES." THE ALL INDIA TARGET OF 2.5 MILLION STERILIZATIONS HAD BEEN EXCEEDED, WHICH WAS A 90 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PERFORMANCE OF LAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE 550,000 IUDS INSERTED AND 2.9 MILLION COUPLES HAVE REGISTERED AS CONVENTIONAL CONTRACEPTIVE USERS. THE STATES OF ASSAM, MAHARASHTRA, HARYANA, KERALA, MEGHALAYA, ORISSA, PUNJAB, TAMILNADU, TRIPURA, WEST BENGAL, DELHI AND PONDICHERRY HAVE ALL ACHIEVED OVER 100 PERCENT OF THEIR TARGETS. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN OTHER STATES HAD PERFORMED VERY POORLY AND MUST MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE DURING THE PRESENT FINANCIAL YEAR. HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WAS STILL A LONG WAY FROM ACHIEVING THE TARGET OF REDUCTION OF THE BIRTH RATE TO 30 PER THOUSAND BY THE END OF 5TH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1979). A TOTAL OF 40 MILLION COUPLES IN THE REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP WOULD NEED TO BE PROTECTED UNDER THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM
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DURING THE NEXT 3 YEARS. THIS WOULD MEAN AN INCREASE OF 22 MILLION COUPLES OVER THE PRESENT 18 MILLION ACCEPTORS. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD CALL FOR A STUPENDOUS EFFORT ON THE PART OF EVERYONE CONCERNED. THE MINISTER, AT THIS POINT, INDICATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING THAT VERY AFTERNOON WITH THE CHIEF MINISTERS, WHERE CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL POLICY DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE IN REGARD TO THE NEW NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY. HE SAID, THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

8. FINALLY, THE MINISTER WAS MOST DISTURBED AT THE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS WHO REFUSED TO BE STATIONED IN THE TRIBAL AND HILLY AREAS. INSTEAD OF UP GRADING THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS, HE RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL CENTERS IN THESE AREAS. HE SAID THE STATES MUST INSIST THAT THESE POSITIONS BE FILLED, AND IF THE DOCTOR REFUSED HE SHOULD BE DISMISSED AND PUNISHED. HE STATED THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NO LONGER TOLERATE THIS DISGRACE OF NOT PROVIDING THE SAME MEDICAL CARE FOR

THE TRIBALS AND OTHER FAR REACHING AREAS THAN IS PROVIDED IN THE
URBAN AREAS.SAXBE

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